Host of players compete for starting positions

(Continued from page 2)

middle linebacker Friday night, and he will be backed up by Roger Willis.

Russell Walton will start at the left linebacker position for the Raiders, and Tim Mullins and Jeff Scruggs will also see action at that position this season.

Andre McCoy is expected to start at right linebacker for the Raiders Friday night, while Phil Bollinger and James Fleshman will be able to spell McCoy at that position.

Bollinger is expected to start at strong safety in the defensive backfield for the Raiders, and Barry Phelps will back him up at that position.

At safety, Ron Scruggs will start for the Raiders Friday night. He will be backed up by Mike Jackson and Ricky Dickerson.

Neal Kelso is the probable starter for the Raiders at the right halfback position. Alex Almond and Lee Moore will likely see action at that position this season, also.

The Raiders will run a multiple offense this season, using three or four different formations. Cuccio says the team will try to execute a balanced mixture of running and passing plays.

On defense, the team will alternate between a 4-3 and a 5-3 configuration.

"We've got some good size on our defensive line," comments Cuccio. "But I'm not sure how much of a factor size will be."

"Our defensive secondary has very good quickness, and we feel our linebackers are as good as any in the area," the coach adds.

Only one of the five offensive interior line positions will be filled by a return starter Friday night. And, as offensive lines go, the Raiders' front five is not particularly large.

But, as Cuccio notes, the coaching staff has been working on the line's movement off the ball, and teaching the athletes how to sustain their blocks.

"The offensive line has shown aggressiveness off the ball," the coach notes, "and we've been working hard on sustaining our blocks."

As with the defensive secondary, Cuccio feels his offensive backfield has the quickness to establish a sound running game.

The Seminole District may be "as competitive, top to bottom, this year as it has been in the past five or six years," Cuccio notes. He expects that Rustburg, Brookville, Altavista, William Campbell and Buckingham will all field strong teams in 1984.

"We're very pleased with the attitudes of the players," Cuccio says of the Raiders. "We feel the team has responded well to the program, they've worked hard, and they've done what we've asked them to.

"We feel inexperience is something that we're going to have to overcome, particularly at the start of the season, this year," the coach adds. "We've been stressing the elimination of mental mistakes."

But with the team's overall attitude, its quickness, and what Cuccio terms "excellent senior leadership," the coach says "We're ready to play football this season."

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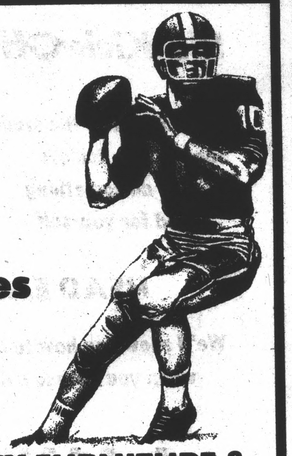

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To girls' hoop squad

Rustburg returns six

THE 1984 RUSTBURG HIGH SCHOOL LADY RED DEVILS BASKETBALL TEAM: (front row, from left) - Tri Captains Rhonda Burks, Angie Brown, and Missy Adkins; (second row, from left) Head Coach Bonnie Jennings, Michele Reighard, Lori Elliott, Lenora Jefferson, Adriene Davis, Cheryl Jones, Tonya Scott, Margaret Fariss, Tee Brown, and Kim Layne. (Photo by Bill Sherred)

The Lady Red Devils basketball team of Rustburg High School, who compiled a 10-9 record in 1983, have six players returning from last season, including returning starters Rhonda Burks and Leonora Jefferson.

Burks, a guard, and Jefferson, who plays center, were instrumental in the team's winning both their games in the first week of play.

Against Jefferson Forest last Tuesday, the Lady Red Devils prevailed 44-36, with Burks scoring 18 points and Jefferson scoring five for Rustburg.

Also contributing heavily to that win were Angie Brown, with nine points, and Missy Adkins, with five.

Burks again led scoring in Thursday night's 41-25 victory against Nelson County, with 19 points total. In that contest also, Jefferson scored nine points, and Adkins scored seven.

Adkins, a senior guard, and Angie Brown, a senior forward, join Burks and Jefferson as returnees from the 1983 Lady Red Devil squad.

Also returning from last year's team are Cheryl Jones, a sophomore forward, and Lori Elliott, a sophomore guard.

Girls on this year's varsity Lady Red Devil squad who were brought up from last year's junior varsity squad include Michelle Reighard, a sophomore guard; Tonya Scott, a junior forward; Adriene Davis, a junior center; Andrea Brown, a junior who plays both the guard and forward positions; and Margaret Fariss, a sophomore forward.

Bonnie Jennings, in her second year as head coach of the Lady Red Devils varsity squad, says she is pleased with the team's performance as a unit thus far this year, in practices and in the season's first two games.

"The team has hustled well in the practice sessions and the games," Jennings notes. "They've been playing good, aggressive basketball."

The Lady Red Devils are not a particularly tall team this season. Adriene Davis, at 5-8, and Leonora Jefferson, at 5-7, are the two tallest players.

But Jennings feels that her team compensates for their lack of height well with good speed and agressiveness.

"We have good speed, more than quickness. I've been pleased with the girls' ability to get the ball down the floor," says the coach.

Jennings also feels that her team has shown good outside shooting at this early point in the season. Outside shooting will be a vital component for contin-

(Continued on page 19)

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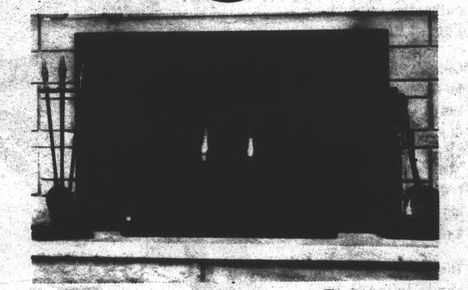

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